

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-10

SPC-01 DRC-01 /059 W

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R 311628Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0880

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T MONROVIA 0701

LIMDIS

NORFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, OAU, PU

SUBJECT: OAU MILITARY OPERATION - GUINEA-BISSAU

REFS: A. ADDIS 1105; B. MONROVIA 6381 OF 11/23/73 (NOTAL)

1. IT VERY DIFFICULT EXTRACT ANY INFORMATION FROM LIBERIAN SOURCES CONCERNING PLANS, IF ANY, FORMULATED AT OAU DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING IN CONAKRY. CHIEF OF STAFF JOHNSON, WHO USUALLY CLOSEMOUTHED THESE MATTERS, EVEN MORE SILENT THAN NORMAL ALTHOUGH WE FULLY BELIEVE HE HAS NO LOVE FOR AND CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION OF TOURE AND GUINEA. EQUALLY, MINDEF

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WILLIAMS HAS MADE NO COMMENT ABOUT CONAKRY MEETINGS. WE AWARE PRESENCE TOLBERT AT MEETING CAME AS RESULT LAST-MINUTE DECISION.

WE AGREE THAT REACTION TO MEETING SEEMS TO BE ONE OF SATISFACTION AND ALL WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED SAY IT WAS UNUSUALLY FRUITFUL AND COOPERATIVE.

2. ROLE OF PRESIDENT IN ANY DECISION TO USE FORCE AGAINST GUINEA-BISSAU IS COMPLICATED BY SEVERAL FACTORS: FIRST, WE NOTE HIS VERY REAL AND GROWING DEDICATION TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT WHICH STEMS BOTH FROM PERSONAL CONVICTION AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY; SECOND, TOLBERT IS, WE BELIEVE, PERSONALLY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT USE OF FORCE AND WOULD RESORT TO SAME ONLY IN VERY LAST INSTANCE. FOR THIS REASON, HE MIGHT OPT FOR FULL REVIEW OF DEFENSE COMMITTEE DECISIONS BY OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND HEADS OF STATE AND ONE MORE ROUND OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES PRIOR MOUNTING SUCH ACTION; THIRDLY, LIBERIA ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION PROVIDE MUCH ASSISTANCE ALTHOUGH MONROVIA PORT AND ROBERTSFIELD MIGHT BE UTILIZED.

3. USMM/L ADVISES US SPECIAL UNIT WHICH HAD BEEN IN TRAINING SINCE LATE NOVEMBER (REF B) HAS STOOD DOWN COMPLETELY AND MEN HAVE RETURNED TO REGULAR UNITS. WE HAD ASSUMED THIS UNIT WAS BEING PREPARED IN CASE GOL ASKED PARTICIPATE IN UNEF OR, AS LESS LIKELY, IT WAS BEING TRAINED AS ADDITIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY ORGANIZATION.

4. LIBERIAN REACTION TO SUCH OPERATION WOULD BE ONE OF GENERAL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNGER, MORE QTE MILLITANT UNQTE ELEMENTS. CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN COUNTRY WOULD, PER FORCE, HAVE TO SUPPORT ALTHOUGH THEIR ADHERENCE TO IDEA WOULD BE LIP SERVICE, NOT MILITARY SERVICE.
MANFULL

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